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Utopia Sketched

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D.H. TRACY

Utopia Sketched

The softball teams waved their counties' flags
in the warmest of the several seasons.

Patterns in the rainfall have so far confounded the almanacs.

Mongolia-shaped. One day across east-west.
But it is hard to make connections to the outlying settlements.

In guiding orchid hunters up the gorge,
our services are deemed necessary.

The linguists prowl the mountains for lost dialects.

A women's adage:
As alarm clocks on nightstands, so a man in the fields.

A variety of birds; or fish.

Decorum demanded that pianists not play their own work.

Liongo replied from across the fire,
'I have no need of faith, unless by this you mean
that which makes the spear a kind of arm,
its point willed here or there without deliberation.'
Anu giggled.

The passages from Provincius lie on the tips of schoolchildren's
tongues
of their own power. The teachers nevertheless make a to-do
of their memorization.

A few of the older have been abroad.
The auditoriums hush as they convene in panels.

A men's adage:
Somewhere there is a woman who doesn't care about this.

If birds, not on the migration routes.

Visiting explorers bed down in the outbuildings.

Their novelties are fobbed off on the children.

There exists a set of pronouns specifically for couples:

“How are *you-two*?”

“Fine—*we-two* finally got out to the islands this year.”

At the end of the dry season we turn out in miles-long crescents
to set fire to the veldt.

Polled in the street, they respond,
‘Mind the stool you’re sitting on.
All else is epiphenomena.’

The masts of ships are last to vanish,
which we believe we have interpreted correctly.

The foundations at the site are almost clear.
Implements like those employed in the east have surfaced.
The steles dutifully recorded the river levels,
except for lapses in the *C* and *D* dynasties.

If fish, consider the cichlid,
one species per cove.

A children’s song:
‘Rectangular hens lay spherical eggs.
The faster you run, the longer your legs.
Laugh from otter beats smile from fish.
Think hard before making your second wish.’

Rain pools in depressions worn in the steps of the capital.

Conquerors from the northwest sowed features among us
neither desirable nor un-: cleft chins, strange bowlines on the
hawsers,
double-entry bookkeeping.